



Note for the File

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| Event | RRP Counter-Trafficking Working Group |
| Date and Place | 14.06.2022, 15.30, Microsoft Teams |
| Attended by | IOM Poland, National and International NGO and IO actors (full list recorded) |
| NFF prepared by | Natalie Payne |

Summary of Relevant information:

Intervention by Monika Sokolowska, Counter-Trafficking Department Coordinator, Police Headquarters

Monika's department coordinates all cases in Poland on human trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual violence, as well as cases of serious offences against children

Context of Ukraine:

- Frontex say numbers of refugees in Poland were over 2 million after the first month of the war – to compare, it was 1.8 million across all of Europe in 2015
- Now 3.3 million Ukrainians have fled to Poland
- The influx poses a huge challenge for Polish NGOs, Border Guards and Police
- There are currently over 700 active cases concerning crimes against Ukrainians
- The Polish Police have implemented permanent 24/7 police checks at RPs and BCPs, and monitor 30 RPs in Poland
- Police HQ often send plain-clothes officers, and play a role to analyze suspicious movements
- 1 March -24/7 hotline operational in each voivodeship - manned with police officers who speak Russian and Ukrainian - 1200 + calls since then

IOM Launch of CT Project (NFM), Intervention by Pawel Barabasz (IOM Poland)

- The project, financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and Polish Border Guard, aims to **improve the capacity** of the Polish Border Guard officers to **prevent and investigate organized crime**, in particular **trafficking in human beings**.

- It will constitute a **second phase of the project** implemented between 2013 and 2017 by IOM and the Border Guard Headquarters, financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and BG HQ.
- It aligns with **EU and Polish strategies** in identifying victims of trafficking and improving the efficiency of law enforcement agencies by increasing their knowledge and competencies around **forced labour**, including:
 - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Objective VIII point 8.7);
 - the Palermo Protocol;
 - the Stockholm Program, adopted by the European Council;
 - Directive 2011/36 / EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing human trafficking and the protection of victims;
 - the Strategy to eliminate trafficking in human beings for the years 2012 – 2016;
 - the European Commission communication 12.2017 regarding the EU Strategy for the elimination of trafficking in human beings;
 - the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019-2021.
- The ILO points to the following issues related to trafficking in human beings in Poland:
 - An observable **increase** in the number of forced labor victims, who are primarily **men**;
 - The total number of victims of **forced labor** is estimated to be much greater than the official statistics, therefore, the content of trainings, workshops and e-learning will primarily focus on this problem;
 - The **transnational dimension** of trafficking in persons requires international cooperation and exchange of good practices (study visits to Norway and Great Britain).
- The Polish Border Guard is responsible for identifying, preventing and investigating the crime of trafficking in human beings in Poland, and it is fully capable to implement the project. It has appropriate expertise and experience in implementing projects financed by the European funds, and it has well-prepared and experienced trainers, as well as fully equipped training centers with accommodation facilities that can be used in the frames of the project

Target Groups

Polish Border Guards:

- Officers responsible for verifying foreigners' legality of employment and stay will participate in trainings
- The e-learning will target officers not directly involved in verifying legality of stay/employment, and it will be a part of the general training curriculum available on the Border Guard training platform to a wider audience.
- Officers responsible for combating and investigating forced labour cases will participate in the workshops.

Project Stakeholders:

- Inspectors of the National Labor Inspectorate,
- Migrants seeking employment in Poland,
- Representatives of non-governmental organizations,
- Victims of human trafficking returning voluntarily to their country of origin.

Activities will include:

1. Specialised **trainings and workshops** on methods of preventing and detecting trafficking in human beings:
 - **15 one-day trainings** for approximately 300 BG officers.
 - **2 two-day specialist workshops** for approximately 110 BG officers, National Labor Inspectorate representatives and external experts, focusing on forced labor in the perspective of inter-institutional cooperation.
2. **E-learning trainings** on preventing and detecting trafficking in human beings for approximately 3,000 BG officers;
 - Its outsourced production will focus on the forced labor phenomenon.

3. **Study visits to Norway and Great Britain** for the Polish Border Guard officers to exchange good practices with representatives of local law enforcement agencies responsible for combating trafficking in human beings
4. **Six trainings** for migrant associations will be held in various cities to build their capacities in the area of countering THB.
5. 10 victims of trafficking will be provided with the opportunity of **safe return to the country of origin** and will receive post-arrival reintegration assistance.

Context: War in Ukraine

- The Russian aggression in Ukraine resulted in more than **8 million** people becoming internally displaced in Ukraine, and a further **6.5 million** fleeing the country.
- Over 3.5 million people arrived in Poland, with the majority being **women and children** – groups especially vulnerable to trafficking in human beings.
- There have already been reports of **sexual violence incidents**, and among the individuals promising onward transportation or services, there have been **indications of potential exploitation**.
- IOM has been building capacities of various stakeholders in Poland on **identifying human trafficking cases**, yet more trainings are needed for the Border Guard officers to address this issue effectively.

Important contacts and resources:

- Police dedicated helpline: +48 47 72 565 02 (consultants speak Polish, English, Russian and Ukrainian)
- KCIK (National Consultation and Intervention Center for Victims of Trafficking) : +48 22 628 01 20
- La Strada (Foundation Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery): +48 22 628 99 99, +48 605 687 750
- General Emergency Number: 112
- [Ukraine - Training - European Freedom Network](#)
- [E-campus: English \(iom.int\)](#)
- [Trafficking in Persons: Victim Identification and Assistance \(Training Guide – Region specific\)](#)
- [Community Engagement in Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence and Trafficking in Persons \(Training Guide – Region specific\)](#)



- [Investigating Human Trafficking Cases Using a Victim-Centred Approach \(Trainer's Manual – Region specific\)](#)
- [Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers \(Trainer facilitator's Guide\)](#)
- [IOM Handbook on Protection and Assistance for Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse](#)
- [IOM Guidance on Referral Mechanisms](#)
- [IOM Guidance on response planning for migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse](#)
- [Migrants and their Vulnerability to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Forced Labor](#)
- [IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking](#)
- [Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers](#)

[Counter-Trafficking in emergencies: Information management guide](#)